

2000 is HCFA's number one priority. For these reasons, a phased—and longer than desired—transition to a patient classification coverage policy is necessary.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in support of the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act of 1999. Together we can ensure that implementation of the BBA dollar limits on outpatient rehabilitation services will not disproportionately affect our most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries.

TRIBUTE TO BILL "BULL"
DAVIDSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Davidson, affectionally known as "Bull" in Stuttgart, Arkansas on Saturday, May 2. Everyone who follows Arkansas State University football is familiar with this personable and talented man but I'd like to take this opportunity to enlighten my colleagues about this gentleman who will always be regarded as one of the greatest coaches ASU has ever had.

Bill was originally from Manila, AR but had lived for many years in Jonesboro, AR, home of Arkansas State University. His involvement with ASU began in 1953 when he was a center-linebacker on the football team and continued when named the offensive coordinator in 1963 for then head coach Bennie Ellender. In addition to being the offensive coordinator, Bill also served as the offensive line coach. He was one of the primary reasons ASU when undefeated in 1970 and were named National Champs for their division. When Coach Ellender left for Tulane University in 1971, Coach Davidson was placed at the helm. The first few years of Bill's tenure were somewhat lean, but the 1973 team finished 8–3 and portended future success. This success was realized in 1975 with an undefeated season and 16 players from that team signing pro contracts. It is considered by many ASU fans as the greatest ASU football team in the school's history. Unfortunately for ASU, in 1979 Bill gave up the head coaching reins primarily due to a severe problem back which had plagued him for some time. He then became an associate athletic director until his retirement in 1990. Bill was twice named Southland Conference Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Arkansas State University Hall of Honor in 1984.

I know there are college head coaches that have had more on field success than Coach Davidson, though his 51–31–1 record during his tenure is very respectable, however, I doubt any would surpass his ability to motivate and inspire his players. This was achieved in a number of ways and that is the mark of a great football coach, not just being proficient with X's and O's but discerning the team's personality and adapting their style of coaching to it.

It would also be difficult to find a coach who was more beloved by his players. Often ending a tough practice with all the players gathered around him, Bill would tell a joke or two and send everyone to the showers with a smile on their faces. His stories about other

players he played with or coached were also in great demand and guaranteed to break-up any listener. It was this wit and humor that enabled Coach Davidson to be a very effective recruiter of top high school football players throughout the country.

The people of Northeast Arkansas and ASU in particular will miss "Bull" Davidson but his legacy will be the young men in whom he instilled many of life's valuable lessons: physical and mental toughness, perseverance, dedication, and perhaps the most important of all, not making excuses for any failure that might befall them.

Bill is survived by his wife Donna and his daughter Sharon to whom I send my most sincere condolences.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 833) to amend title II of the United States Code, and for further purposes:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 833 provides fair and reasonable bankruptcy reform to a system that is badly in need of repair. Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code was established to help honest, debt burdened individuals gain a fresh start. In 1982, when economic times were tough, less than 400,000 individuals used this portion of the Code, which forgives all existing debts.

Oddly, in today's economy in which real per capita annual disposable income is growing, unemployment rates are low, and the market is strong, Chapter 7 filings are at a record high with over 1.4 million people asking to be discharged from about \$50 billion in debt. Currently it is estimated that over 70% of bankruptcy filers use Chapter 7. Last year, 1.4 million personal bankruptcies were filed, an increase of 94.7 percent over 1990. By contrast business filings have remained steady over the last two decades. As my House colleague Congressman RICK BOUCHER aptly said, "bankruptcy was never meant to be used as a financial planning tool, but it is becoming a first stop rather than a last resort" to those who have the ability to pay a portion of their debts, but choose to ignore their responsibilities.

Clearly, the Congress has a responsibility to address this issue. Our nation simply cannot afford widespread abuse in our bankruptcy system. Consumers pay an estimated \$500 dollars per year in additional "hidden taxes" by companies trying to make up for the cost of bankruptcy losses. For this reason, I have joined the fight in promoting federal legislation that actively seeks to reform the Code and target those who abuse the system at the expense of others.

The Bankruptcy Reform Act, which passed yesterday with overwhelming bipartisan support will force those who should file under Chapter 13, and pay a portion of their debt, to meet their responsibilities. It insists that a debtor demonstrate that full bankruptcy relief under Chapter 7 is warranted. Those who do

not meet this needs-based test will be subject to a formula based on the debtor's income and obligations. The bill also ensures that debtors know all their financial options before they file bankruptcy. Often, debtors are the prey of entities that push debtors into bankruptcy without an explanation. This initiative will crack down on these practices. The bill also includes a House passed amendment that will require greater disclosure to debtors by credit card companies and other creditors about the types of fees and payments schedules that consumers may incur. By balancing the needs of creditors and debtors, this bill achieves meaningful bankruptcy reform.

NATIONAL TEACHER
APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week, and I want to honor the teachers of the Eight Congressional District of Massachusetts. Almost 5,000 teachers in over 176 schools educate approximately 86,000 students in the 8th district alone.

Many of today's schools are in disrepair. They are bulging at the seams. Students do not have chairs to sit on, let alone textbooks from which to learn. Despite limited resources, teachers persistently surpass these obstacles and devise new ways to stimulate our children to achieve.

So many teachers go the extra mile to ensure that their students are learning. They provide a variety of additional services, from assisting a student after school hours with their homework to giving up their Saturday to coach basketball. Teachers are more than just educators. They serve as mentors, managers, counselors, confidants and friends. Although they are not always rewarded or even acknowledged for their daily selfless acts, teachers continue to give of themselves in order to instruct our children.

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, several teachers have exemplified outstanding dedication to their jobs: Joseph Sullivan, who was bestowed with the honor of being elected to the Massachusetts Teacher Association board; Michele Owaross, who just recently led a group of 10th and 11th graders on a trip to China to study the society and culture of another country; Lucinda Leveille who brought six students to Russia recently and was honored for her attempt to promote international awareness by the Russian Government; and Jamal Prince, Chelsea's indoor track coach who was named "Coach of the Year" by *The Boston Globe*.

Likewise, in Chelsea, Massachusetts, Adele Lubarsky has been teaching at the Sokolowski school in Chelsea since 1972. In those 27 years, Ms. Lubarsky has certainly kept active. As a 3rd grade Spanish bilingual elementary school teacher, she has set high standards to guarantee that her students will achieve now and in the future. Ms. Lubarsky also serves as a "mentor teacher" whereby she models lessons for other teachers and assists newcomers. Due to her dedication, she was awarded the 1996 "Outstanding Teacher of

the Year" award from Chelsea's school system.

Mr. Speaker, there are far too many teachers to mention everyone by name, however I'd like to take a moment to thank all the teachers in Belmont, Boston, Somerville, Cambridge, Chelsea, and Watertown for tirelessly giving of themselves to educate our future leaders.

Tomorrow, I will visit the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. school and the King Open school in Cambridge, and then I will attend a ground breaking at the Boston Latin school. Since becoming a Member, I have visited schools all over my district. However I am always amazed at the warm greeting I receive from students, and from teachers. For them, it does not matter who the visitor is, but rather that someone cares and recognizes the hard work they do.

Mr. Speaker, while we discuss education priorities this year, I hope each Member of Congress will reflect upon the valuable commodity each and every teacher in his or her district represents, and work to include rewards for teachers as a part of the education agenda. I know I will.

A COURAGEOUS DRUG FIGHTER AND HIS MEN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today's Miami Herald recounts the battle by the Colombia National Police (CNP) in a real war on drugs in that troubled nation. In attacking a major cocaine complex in Colombia, the anti-drug police (DANTI) under the leadership of General Jose Serrano and Colonel Leonardo Gallego took hostile fire, yet they managed to destroy a complex capable of producing tons and tons of deadly drugs, and seized a ton of cocaine and large quantities of precursor chemicals. The lab complex was capable of producing 8 tons of cocaine per month.

The DANTI used aged Huey helicopters without the proper Forward Looking Infra Red (FLIR) equipment that could have foretold the trouble that they would face on the ground from the right wing paramilitary run cocaine complex. Despite the lack of adequate helicopters and what the police really need in defensive equipment, they still prevailed. We are indeed fortunate to have allies like this in our common battle against illicit drugs in our hemisphere.

Just last Friday, along with my colleagues in the House, Representatives BURTON, MICA and DELAUNO and Senator DODD, I traveled to the Sikorsky plant in Connecticut to attend the ceremony giving General Serrano what he and his anti-drug police need to fight a real war on drugs. The log book for six of the world renowned and effective Sikorsky Blackhawk utility helicopters were turned over to General Serrano and Colonel Gallego, the head of DANTI. These Blackhawk choppers will give these brave, courageous men what they need and should have had years ago.

One can only wonder what results we might have seen from the CNP if we had provided these Blackhawks sooner rather than later. I ask that the Miami Herald account of yesterday's operations in Colombia be inserted at this point in the RECORD, and I ask my col-

leagues to note what good and courageous men do in a real war on drugs.

[From the Miami Herald, May 5, 1999]

COLOMBIAN POLICE FIGHT OFF GUNFIRE TO
DESTROY COKE LABS

(By Tim Johnson)

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA—Fighting off gunfire from paramilitary forces, an anti-narcotics strike force on Wednesday raided what police described as one of the most sophisticated cocaine-processing complexes in Colombia's history.

Police said they destroyed three cocaine-processing laboratories capable of producing eight tons of cocaine a month.

"This is impressive. in my professional life, I have seen a lot of laboratories. But this is beyond imagination," said National Police Chief Rosso Jose Serrano, soaked in sweat after leading 300 officers on the jungle raid.

Serrano said the laboratories, discovered in a wooded area in the Magdalena River Valley near the town of Puerto Boyaca, were protected by rightist paramilitary forces.

Paramilitary forces have long been rumored to be involved in Colombia's huge drug trade, but their direct link to such a major processing site provides starting evidence of how deeply they are enmeshed.

The discovery further complicates Colombia's dismal security situation and underscores the difficulties of fighting the cocaine trade. The 15,000-member Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—bitter enemies of the paramilitary forces—also derive hundreds of millions of dollars a year from protecting coca crops and laboratories, mostly in the eastern plains.

Backed by 10 artillery-equipped helicopters, 300 members of an anti-narcotics force swooped down on the complex around dawn, police said.

"In the precise moment we arrived, they were in the middle of processing cocaine. We couldn't tell how many people were there, but there was an exchange of gunfire," police Col. Ramon Pelaez said.

Workers fled the scene as helicopters landed a little less than a mile from the laboratories, Serrano said. No arrests were made.

The laboratories, some up to four stories high, were covered by thick forest, Serrano said. Sleeping facilities indicated at least 200 people were employed at the site.

Serrano said the stench of ether—used to process the drug—hung over the complex.

Police said they found 150 tons of chemicals, a ton of pure cocaine, generators capable of providing power to a town of 5,000 people, gas ovens to process the cocaine and documents that provided valuable clues.

"We made an estimate that the structure is worth \$5 million," Serrano said. "It impressed me because I've seen a lot. But these were very well camouflaged. You passed over in a helicopter and you couldn't see them."

Serrano said the site included a sophisticated quality-control facility.

He said the laboratories, each one protected by control towers, were spread over more than seven square miles.

Serrano said he believed the laboratories were run by paramilitaries with remnants of the dismantled Cali and Medellin cartels, which at their height were the largest criminal organizations in the world. Colombia produces about 80 percent of the world's cocaine.

The site appeared to rival two other huge complexes destroyed by police in the past.

In March 1984, authorities were stunned by a massive jungle complex known as Tranquilandia, with a network of 19 laboratories. Police found 13.8 tons of cocaine at the facility, worth more than \$1 billion in

street sales. They later calculated that the complex could produce 300 tons of refined cocaine a year.

In early 1997, authorities found more than eight tons of cocaine at a processing facility in eastern Meta state that became known as Villa Coca.

That complex was also virtually an entire village, with 22 crude buildings, an all-weather airstrip, a control tower and 455 tons of chemicals used in refining cocaine.

In other news, the head of the National anti-Narcotics Office, Ruben Olarte Reyes, was forced from office by President Andres Pastrana amid charges that his brother had laundered money for drug traffickers.

An angry Olarte contended that he was being railroaded out of office and that his brother had rented a house without knowing that its owner was sought by authorities as a suspected drug dealer.

BOSTON'S TEACHING HOSPITALS

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article from today's New York Times which details the financial difficulties facing Boston's teaching hospitals. Many of the Boston teaching hospitals, which are located in my district, are experiencing serious Medicare cuts as a result of the Balanced Budget Act as well as from continuous cuts from managed care payments. These cuts threaten the important mission that our teaching hospitals provide—training physicians, caring for the sickest patients and providing care for the indigent.

I would ask my colleagues to read this important article and to take these points in mind as we debate the future of the Medicare program.

[From the New York Times, May 6, 1999]

TEACHING HOSPITALS SAY MEDICARE CUTS
HAVE THEM BLEEDING RED INK

(By Carey Goldberg)

BOSTON—Normally, the great teaching hospitals of this medical Mecca carry an air of white-coated, best-in-the-world arrogance, the kind that comes of collecting Nobels, of snaring more federal money for medical research than hospitals anywhere else, of attracting patients from the four corners of the earth.

But not lately. Lately, their chief executives carry an air of pleading and alarm. They tend to cross the edges of their palms in an X—with one line symbolizing rising costs and the other dropping payments, especially Medicare payments—and say they simply cannot go on losing money this way and remain the academic cream of American medicine.

Dr. Mitchell T. Rabkin, chief executive emeritus of Beth Israel Hospital: "Every-one's in deep yogurt."

Jeffrey Otten, president of Brigham and Women's Hospital: "Most of the hospitals are losing money at a rate between a half-million and a million dollars a week," though their beds are mostly full.

Dr. Samuel O. Thier, president of the group which owns Massachusetts General Hospital: "We've got a problem, and you've got to nip it in the bud, or else you're going to kill off some of the premier institutions in the country."

The teaching hospitals here and elsewhere have never been fully immune from the turbulent change sweeping American health